



Department of
Toxic Substances
Control

*The Mission of the
Department of
Toxic Substances
Control is to
provide the highest
level of safety, and
to protect public
health and the
environment from
toxic harm.*



State of California



California
Environmental
Protection Agency

Fact Sheet, July 2008

Draft Removal Action Workplan for the PM Dusters Site Available for Review and Comment

A draft plan to remove soil contaminated with pesticides at the PM Dusters site (8562 Aguas Frias, Road, Chico, California 95928) is available for public review and comment from July 28, 2008 through August 28, 2008. The draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) was submitted to the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) by the property owner. The draft RAW proposes excavation and removal of soil contaminated with pesticides as the cleanup remedy for the site.

This Fact Sheet provides a brief summary of:

- Why Cleanup Is Necessary
- History and Operations at the Site
- Environmental Investigations
- Proposed Cleanup Options
- Safety & Dust Control During Cleanup
- Proposed Transportation Route for Trucks
- California Environmental Quality Act
- Next Steps
- Where to Find the Documents
- Who to Contact for Information

Why Cleanup Is Necessary

There is no immediate health risk because the public is not exposed to the contaminated soil. However, since exposure to elevated levels of pesticides can cause adverse health effects, DTSC recommended that the property owner prepare a draft RAW outlining how to cleanup contaminated soil. DTSC will oversee the cleanup and ensure that it is performed in a manner that is protective of human health and the environment.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

July 28, 2008 to August 28, 2008

DTSC encourages your participation. The draft RAW and other related project documents for this site are available for review and public comment at the locations listed on [page 3](#). DTSC will make a final decision after all public comments have been reviewed and considered. Please submit comments by August 28, 2008 to Ms. Leona Winner, Cleanup Program, Department of Toxic Substances Control, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, California 95826. Comments submitted electronically should be sent to lwinner@dtsc.ca.gov no later than 5:00 pm on August 28, 2008.



History And Operations At The Site

The site is largely agricultural with a small private airstrip used by a private helicopter and airplane operator, and crop dusting facility (P.M. Dusters, Inc.). The crop duster facility has been in operation since the 1970s. The facility originally consisted of a few buildings and an airstrip and has over time added additional buildings, asphalt, four silos, and concrete pad areas for operations. Previously, the property had a wash pad associated with the airstrip. Wash water containing pesticides drained from the unlined wash pad into a nearby drainage ditch. This practice was discontinued in the mid-1980s.

Environmental Investigations

Under the oversight of the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Redding Office (RWQCB) and DTSC, several investigations have been performed at the site since about January 1985. The RWQCB assumed lead agency status on August 1, 1990 and later issued Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO), No. 93-713, on December 13, 1993. The CAO was later amended to identify revised responsible parties and incorporate additional tasks required by the RWQCB. The CAO was subsequently rescinded by the RWQCB due to the absence of identified groundwater contamination and the project was referred to DTSC.

On May 16, 2006 the property owners entered into a Voluntary Cleanup Agreement with DTSC to investigate the extent of remaining soil contamination and remediate the remaining on-site and off-site impacted soils and residual soil contamination.

Proposed Cleanup Options

During a site inspection on May 22, 2006 by DTSC, the property owners, Mathew Evans, Esq., attorney for the owners, and environmental consultants Risk-Based Decisions, Inc. (RBDI) identified six areas of potential environmental concern. These areas are:

On-Site:

1. Wash pad and all soil areas in the immediate vicinity
2. Drainage ditch

3. Four silos and the soil surrounding the silos
4. Former storage and remediation areas including the equipment storage barn

Off-Site:

5. Soil pad
6. Ditch.

Additional soil sampling has identified remaining soil contamination above identified clean up goals in the area of the on-site ditch, the area of the original wash pad, in the soil around and in the silos, and in the soil at the off-site soil pad and off-site ditch.

The following three cleanup options were considered for this site:

Alternative 1 – No Further Action

Alternative 2 – On-Site Advanced Oxidation Process Treatment

Alternative 3 – Excavation, Removal, and Transport of Contaminated Soil to an Off-Site, Licensed Incinerator

Based on careful analysis of the options, *Excavation, Removal and Transport of Contaminated Soil to an Off-Site, Licensed Incinerator (Alternative 3)* is proposed as the best option for cleaning up the site. Contaminated soil will be excavated, loaded into trucks, and taken to an off-site licensed facility. After the contaminated soil is removed, soil samples will be taken from the excavation areas to confirm that the removal is complete.

Safety & Dust Control During Cleanup

The following actions will be implemented during this process to ensure public safety and minimize dust:

- Installing temporary fencing for security control
- Driving all vehicles at slow speeds while on the property
- Spraying off work areas with clean water to control dust
- Securing trucks with covers before they leave the site

- Inspecting and decontaminating equipment and vehicles, including haul trucks, prior to leaving exclusion zone.
- Monitoring the air at the site to ensure the amount of dust stays at safe levels
- Implementing traffic controls to minimize impacts on adjacent public streets

Proposed Transportation Route for Trucks

There will be approximately 12-15 truckloads carrying approximately 200 cubic yards or 256 tons of contaminated soil to a licensed incinerator in Aragonite, Utah. The contaminated soil will be transported in sealable bins by 25-ton dump trucks on arterial streets and/or freeways approved for truck traffic. The route will head north on Aguas Frias Road, east on Durham Dayton Highway and south on US Federal Highway 99. The route will turn east from Highway 99 onto Route 20 then to Interstate 80 to Aragonite. Transportation will be timed to avoid rush-hour traffic.

California Environmental Quality Act

In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), DTSC has prepared a draft Notice of Exemption (NOE) for this project. The NOE states that the proposed cleanup is exempt from CEQA and will not have a significant negative effect on human health and the environment because of short duration, the controlled way in which the contaminated soils will be dug out, loaded onto trucks and taken away to an approved/permitted facility for lawful disposal.

Next Steps

At the close of the public comment period, DTSC will review and consider any public comments and make any necessary revisions to the draft RAW prior to final approval. Also, a Response to Comments document will be provided to everyone who makes a comment and provides their name and address, to anyone who requests a copy, and will be placed in the information repositories established for this project.

Where to Find the Documents

The draft RAW and other related documents are available for review at the Durham Public Library, 2545 Durham Dayton Hwy, Durham, California

95938. Please call (530) 879-3835 for hours of operation.

Department of Toxic Substances Control
Regional Records Office, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, California 95826. Contact (916) 255-3758, Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. A computer is available in the file room for your use. Please call to make an appointment to review the files.

Information regarding the project can also be viewed electronically at: <http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public>. Once at the site, type the word “chico” in the box titled “city” and hit the “enter” key. You will be given several projects to choose from. Choose the project called “[PM Dusters Incorporated](#)”. Highlight the “Community Involvement” button and hit “enter”. The screen will provide you with several documents available for review.

Who to Contact for Information

If you have any questions about the project or cleanup activities, please contact Ms. Leona Winner, DTSC Project Manager at (916) 255-6679, email at lwinner@dtsc.ca.gov.

If you have questions regarding public involvement in the project, please contact Ms. Heidi Nelson, DTSC Public Participation Specialist at (916) 255-3575 or free of charge at (866) 495-5651, email at hnelson@dtsc.ca.gov.

Media Inquiries

Members of the media are requested to contact Ms. Jeanne Garcia, DTSC Public Information Officer, at (818) 717-6573, email at jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov.

Notice to Hearing-Impaired Individuals

You can obtain additional information about the site by using the California State Relay Service at (888) 877-5378 (TDD). Ask them to contact Ms. Leona Winner at (916) 255-6679 regarding the PM Dusters project.

